



**ARUBA TODAY**

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# Abortion rights face tectonic shift in the South

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and GARY D. ROBERTSON  
Associated Press  
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Abortion rights in the U.S. faced another tectonic shift Tuesday as lawmakers debated laws to sharply limit abortion in North and South Carolina, two of the few remaining Southern states with relatively easy access. North Carolina joined South Carolina and Nebraska among the states that have been able to discuss restricting abortion access because the U.S. Supreme Court last year struck down the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which established a nationwide right to abortion. The Republican-controlled legislature of North Carolina was attempting to override Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, who has vetoed legislation banning nearly all abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy. The override of his veto could hinge on a single vote. Under another bill up for a vote Tuesday, in the South Carolina House, abortion access would be almost entirely banned after about six weeks of pregnancy. The South Carolina state Senate rejected a proposal to nearly outlaw the procedure.

Continued on Page 2



Hundreds of abortion-rights supporters rally outside the North Carolina Legislative Building in Raleigh, N.C., on Saturday, May 13, 2023, to urge Republican legislators to sustain Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's veto of new abortion restrictions.

Associated Press

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## Abortion rights face tectonic shift in the South

Continued from Front

Abortion is banned or severely restricted in much of the South and is banned throughout pregnancy now in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. In Georgia, it's allowed only in the first six weeks of pregnancy.

The Carolinas, Florida and Virginia are now the main destinations in the region for those seeking legal abortion. Florida has a ban that kicks in 15 weeks into pregnancy. Under a recent law, that would tighten to six weeks – before women often know they're pregnant – pending a court ruling. Further west, women



**South Carolina Rep. Beth Bernstein, D-Columbia, speaks at a Statehouse lobby rally before the House begins debating an abortion bill on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina.**

Associated Press

often travel to Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico or Colorado.

Nationally, bans on abortion throughout pregnancy are in effect in 14 states.

In North Carolina, Cooper vetoed the bill being debated Tuesday over the weekend after spending last week traveling around the state trying to persuade one or more Republicans to uphold his veto. Among them is Rep. Tricia Cotham, whose recent switch from the Democratic Party to the GOP gave House Republicans the one additional vote they needed for veto-proof majorities in both chambers.

Both the North Carolina House and Senate passed the bill along party lines this month, signaling that an override could be successful. While GOP leaders in both chambers say they're confident they have the votes, some uncertainty lingers in the House, where another key Republican called out by Cooper was absent for the original vote and has declined to comment on the bill.

Republicans have pitched the measure as a middle-ground change to state abortion law, which currently bans nearly all abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, without exceptions for rape or incest.

Cooper has said that the 12-week ban would greatly erode reproductive rights for North Carolinians, and others who have become dependent on the state for abortions later in pregnancy.

In South Carolina, the impasse dates back to a special session last fall when House lawmakers demanding a near-total ban did not meet to negotiate with their Senate counterparts pushing for a ban around six weeks.

The stalemate persisted even after the state Supreme Court in January struck down a previous law

banning abortions once cardiac activity is detected.

That decision left abortion legal through 22 weeks of pregnancy. A sharp increase in abortions since then has rankled Republicans. Provisional state health department data show South Carolina reported nearly 1,000 abortions in each of the first three months this year, after totaling just over 200 in the one full month the previous ban was in effect.

The House is now weighing a Senate bill similar to the one they denied last year. The measure would ban abortion when an ultrasound detects cardiac activity, around six weeks. South Carolina House Speaker Murrell Smith has said the chamber will not adjourn until the measure gets approval.

Democrats began slowing the process Tuesday by speaking for all three allotted minutes on each of their hundreds of amendments and forcing other procedural votes.

Lawmakers in Nebraska were scheduled to take up debate on a proposal that would ban abortion at 12 weeks of pregnancy. The proposal comes after lawmakers rejected a bill last month that would have banned abortion after cardiac activity is detected.

This latest proposal is tacked onto a bill that would ban gender-affirming care for transgender minors. Opponents have said they plan to filibuster for the entire two hours of scheduled debate Tuesday evening. Conservatives in Nebraska's unique single-chamber, officially nonpartisan Legislature will need 33 out of 49 votes for these proposals to advance. □

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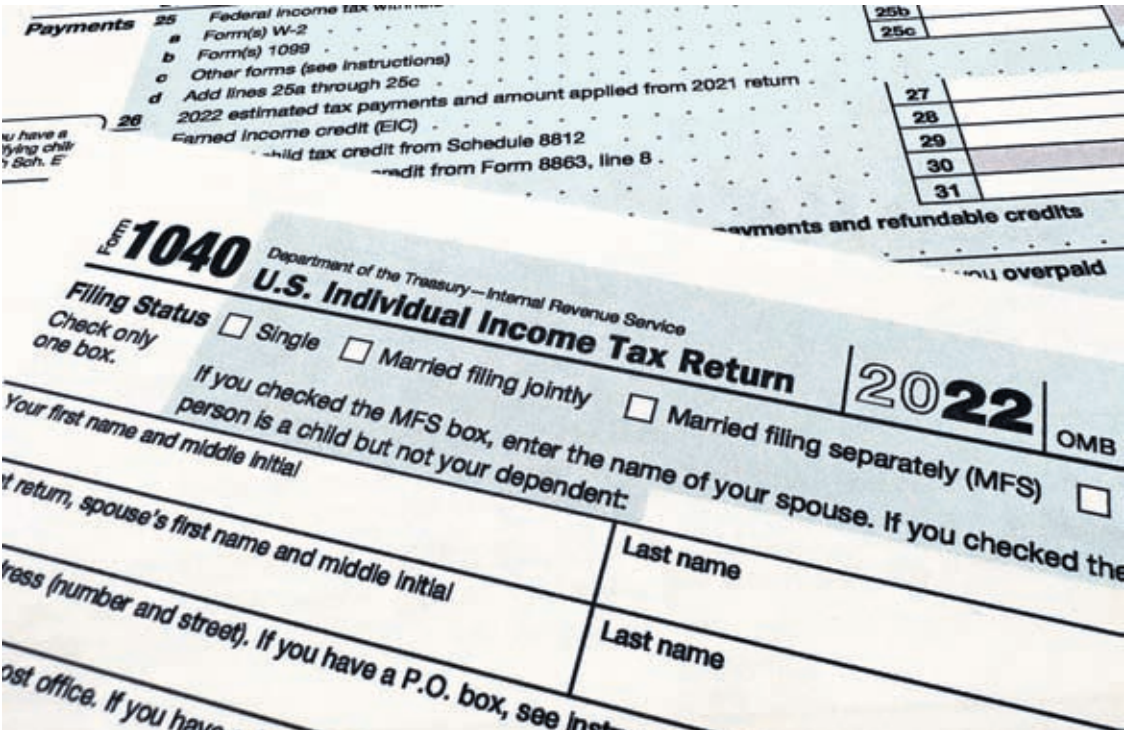
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# IRS moves forward with free e-filing system in 2024



The Internal Revenue Service 1040 tax form for 2022 is seen on April 17, 2023.

Associated Press

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS and FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Most taxpayers are interested in filing their taxes directly to the IRS for free, a new report says, and that option will be tested next year. The IRS has spent the past nine months studying whether U.S. taxpayers want to see a free, e-filing system run by the government and is now preparing to launch a pilot program. The prospect of a free, government-run, online tax filing system has been debated for a long time. Supporters argue that the option would make tax return services more equitable and accessible for taxpayers nationwide. But there's also been pushback from some big tax-prep companies. Now, the IRS plans

to launch a pilot program for the 2024 filing season to test a "direct file" system and help the federal government decide on whether to move forward with potentially implementing it in the future, IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel and the Treasury's Chief Implementation Officer Laurel Blatchford confirmed on Tuesday. There's still limited details about the pilot as the agency determines the basic structure of the program, but Werfel said that members of the public will have the option to participate. The IRS was tasked with looking into how to create a "direct file" system as part of the funding it received from the Inflation Reduction Act, Democrats' flagship climate and health care measure that

President Joe Biden signed last summer. It gave the IRS nine months and \$15 million to report on how such a program would be implemented. The IRS published a feasibility report Tuesday which lays out taxpayer interest in direct file, how the system could work, its potential cost, operational challenges and more. The report shows that the majority of surveyed taxpayers would be interested in using an IRS-provided tool to prepare and file their taxes electronically and that the IRS is "technically capable of delivering direct file, but doing so would require additional resources and add com-

plexity to IRS operations," Werfel said on a call with reporters. The IRS's existing free e-file option, available to lower income taxpayers who qualify, will remain in place, he added. Individuals of all income levels can also still submit their returns for free via the mail — although it can take months to process paper returns and taxpayers will still have to buy postage. The new, direct e-file program being tested "could potentially save taxpayers billions of dollars annually," said Blatchford, who noted that an individual taxpayer pays an average of \$140 preparing their tax returns each year. □



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# New England haddock imperiled by overfishing

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

**Associated Press**

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** —

A staple seafood species caught by East Coast fishers for centuries is experiencing overfishing, and regulators have cut catch quotas by more than 80% to prevent the fish's population from collapse.

Haddock are one of the most popular Atlantic fish, and a favorite for fish and chips and other New England seafood dishes.

But fewer haddock will be caught in New England this year after regulators cut fishing quotas. A recent scientific assessment found that the Gulf of Maine haddock stock declined unexpectedly, and that meant the catch quotas for the fish were unsustainably high, federal fishing managers said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration added the Gulf of Maine haddock stock to its overfishing list last month. The New England Fishery Management Council, a regulatory board, has lowered catch limits of the fish in an attempt to halt the overfishing, said agency spokesperson Allison Ferreira.

However, numerous fishers said the assessment doesn't match what they're seeing



**Fisherman David Goethel sorts cod and haddock while fishing off the coast of New Hampshire, April 23, 2016.**

**Associated Press**

on the water, where haddock appear to them to be plentiful. And the warning from the federal government arrives as more New England fishers rely on haddock than in previous decades because of the collapse of other seafood species, such as Atlantic cod. "We seem to find plenty, but they can't," said Terry Alexander, a Maine-based fisher who targets haddock and other species. "It's a disaster is what it is. A total, complete disaster."

The fishery management council mandated the 84%

reduction in catch quotas for the current fishing year, which started May 1. The change applies to fishers who harvest haddock from the Gulf of Maine, a body of water off Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Fishers also harvest from Georges Bank, a fishing ground to the east where quotas were also reduced for this year, including adjoining areas overseen by Canadian officials who issued their own major cuts.

Americans are still likely to find haddock available de-

spite the cuts because most of it is imported, according to federal data from 2021. Some countries that export haddock are also cutting quotas this year. But recent announcements of cuts by major exporters like Norway have been much lower than in the Gulf of Maine, and they represent a much larger share of global fish stocks.

Declining fish stocks threaten economies, food security and cultures around the world. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says more

than a third of global fish stocks are overfished, and the rate of unsustainable fishing is rising. However, seafood species' health varies significantly from region to region. Some, such as American lobster, have grown in catch volume in recent decades.

The U.S. catch of haddock has fluctuated over the past century. In the early 1950s, over 150 million pounds (70 million kilograms) were caught each year. Overfishing caused catches to plummet below a million pounds (450,000 kilograms) per year in the mid-1990s, and rebuilding efforts followed. Over the past few years, catches have ranged from 12 million to 23 million pounds (25 million to 50 million kilograms).

Haddock are caught by the same fishers who target other bottom-dwelling groundfish species such as cod, pollock and flounders. They are harvested at a much higher volume than any of those fish.

The fish are one of few profitable species on the East Coast said Ben Martens, executive director of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association. He says losing the ability to catch them is a big hardship for the industry. □



**White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan speaks at a press briefing at the White House in Washington, April 24, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

By **COLLEEN LONG and MICHAEL BALSAMO**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

An unknown man managed to slip undetected inside the home of White House national security adviser

Jake Sullivan, according to two people familiar with the incident. The U.S. Secret Service is investigating.

The door was apparently unlocked, and the intruder was able to get inside Sullivan's home around 3

## Man slipped undetected inside the home of WH official

a.m. last month, the people said. Secret Service is investigating whether the person intentionally went into the home or whether it was some kind of accident; the person appeared to be intoxicated, the people said. The people were not authorized to talk about an ongoing investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Sullivan has round-the-clock security. But the agents stationed outside his home did not know that the unknown male accessed inside the Washington home until the man

had already gone. Sullivan came outside and told them, the people said.

Security is always a top concern for high-level government officials, but there's been a more palpable sense of anxiety in recent years as threats to lawmakers and officials are on the rise. The husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was attacked and severely beaten with a hammer by an assailant who broke into the couple's San Francisco in October.

There was no evidence that the person meant to harm Sullivan or even knew him. The Washington Post

first reported the breach.

Meanwhile, additional security measures have been put in place outside Sullivan's home as a precaution while a review is conducted.

The U.S. Secret Service said in a statement that it was "examining a security incident that took place at a protectee site."

"While the protectee was unharmed, we are taking this matter seriously and have opened a comprehensive mission assurance investigation to review all facets of what occurred," according to the statement. □



# China's sentencing of U.S. citizen exposes national security threats

By KANIS LEUNG

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — The life sentence imposed by China on a 78-year-old U.S. citizen, who was also a Hong Kong permanent resident, on spying charges shows the city should "stay vigilant" to security risks, its leader said Tuesday.

Chief Executive John Lee answered none of the lingering questions about why John Shing-Wan Leung was prosecuted.

The sentence was announced Monday but neither the Hong Kong government nor the court in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou that tried Leung have released details of the charges.

"This incident showed us that national security risks could be hidden in society. That's why we repeatedly stressed that, although Hong Kong's situation appears to be largely stabilized, we can't let down our guard over national security risks and have to stay vigilant," Lee said.

The government said mainland Chinese authorities had informed Hong Kong of his arrest in 2021.

Hong Kong's government was prepared to provide assistance to anyone arrested by mainland authorities upon request but



Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee speaks during a news conference in Hong Kong, March 21, 2023.

Associated Press

had not yet received any in Leung's case, authorities said.

Lee, a former police officer and ex-head of security in the city, was effectively appointed to lead Hong Kong last year after running unopposed in an election choreographed by Beijing. In his previous posts, he oversaw a campaign that crushed the pro-democracy camp.

In an echo of party propaganda, Lee referred to the 2019 pro-democracy protests that triggered the

crackdown as "black violence" and Hong Kong's version of "color revolution," a phrase used by China and Russia to describe political movements seeking to overturn authoritarian regimes.

Lee said the protest movement was an alarm bell that reminds the city to keep monitoring such risks. Leung's sentencing threatens to further exacerbate already strained ties between Beijing and Washington.

Leung was detained April

15, 2021, by the local bureau of China's counter-intelligence agency in Suzhou, according to a statement posted by the city's intermediate court on its social media site. His detention came after China had closed its borders and imposed tight domestic travel restrictions and lockdowns affecting tens of millions to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Such investigations and trials are held behind closed doors and little information is generally released. □

## U.N. reports extensive flooding damage in central Somalia

By OMAR FARUK

Associated Press

**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)** — Floods caused by the annual rains have left "a trail of destruction" across Somalia, a United Nations spokesman said, citing inundated homes and farmland as well as the shut-down of health facilities.

"According to early estimates by our partners, more than 460,000 people have been impacted, including nearly 219,000 men, women and children who have been displaced



Men walk through floodwaters on a street in the town of Beledweyne, in Somalia Monday, May 15, 2023.

Associated Press

due to this (flooding)," Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

At least five people, including three children, have been killed in the flooding, Mohamed Moalim of the Somalia National Disaster Management Agency told The Associated Press.

The destruction is greatest in the Hiiraan region of the central Somali state of Hirshabelle. Thousands of families have been displaced in Beledweyne, the regional city with the highest population density. □

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# Stage set for Ecuadorian president or lawmakers to be booted out of office

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and GONZALO SOLANO  
Associated Press

**QUITO, Ecuador (AP)** — Ecuador was locked in a showdown Tuesday between its conservative president and its opposition-led legislature that was turning the country into the latest Latin American nation torn between rival constitutional powers.

The opposition was widely expected to reach the 92 votes necessary to remove President Guillermo Lasso some time this week, but he could dissolve the legislature to keep his job and govern by decree. The Ecuadorian constitution would allow that until new presidential and legislative elections take place.

Whatever happens, the faceoff added political instability to the problems tormenting Ecuadorians, most recently an increase in drug-related violence, including several massacres in prisons over the past two years.

Ecuadorians have long thought of everyday life as stable when compared to its neighbors, Colombia



**Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso speaks during a session by National Assembly where opposition lawmakers seek to try him for embezzlement accusations in Quito, Ecuador, Tuesday, May 16, 2023.**

Associated Press

and Peru. But many in the country have become angered by their elected officials' failure to deal with joblessness, violence, extortion by gangsters and petty crime.

People feel the government is "totally disconnected from their most urgent needs," said Laura Lizarazo, a senior analyst covering

Ecuador and Colombia for the global firm Control Risks. "We anticipate that the progressive deterioration in terms of security that Ecuador has experienced in the last year will persist," she said.

Lawmakers accuse Lasso of not having intervened to end a contract between the state-owned oil

transport company Flota Petrolera Ecuatoriana and the private entity Amazonas Tankers. The accusers argue that Lasso knew the contract was full of irregularities and cost the state millions in losses.

Lasso, a former banker, was elected in 2021 and has clashed from the start with a strong opposition in the

National Assembly.

The president, who has had medical issues throughout his term, arrived at impeachment proceedings in the assembly Tuesday after they already began, holding onto a person's arm as he walked.

Lasso categorically rejected the accusations, insisting there was no proof or testimony of wrongdoing, and spoke with sarcasm about the impeachment proceedings.

"I would like to begin by extending my appreciation to the members of the Assembly... who have dedicated themselves to this unfounded process with so much spirit," Lasso said. "I want to deeply recognize them because ... they have stretched the limits of human imagination."

This is the second time the opposition has tried to impeach Lasso, but last year it didn't get enough votes. Lasso did not immediately say during the hearing if he would dissolve the Assembly. He told foreign reporters in April that he would not hesitate to do so if his removal were imminent. □

## E.U. countries adopt law banning products which fuel deforestation

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The 27 European Union countries on Tuesday formally adopted new rules that should help the bloc reduce its contribution to global deforestation

by regulating the trade in a series of products driving the decrease in forested areas across the world. Under the legislation, companies trading palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy will need to

verify that the goods they sell in the EU haven't led to deforestation and forest degradation anywhere in the world since 2021.

The regulation also covers derived products such as chocolate or printed paper.

Forests are an important natural means of removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, since plants absorb carbon dioxide when they grow.

According to the World Resource Institute, a forested area the size of 10 soccer fields disappears in the world every minute and the EU says that without the new regulation it could be responsible for the loss of 248,000 hectares (612,000 acres) of deforestation per year a surface almost as

large as member country Luxembourg.

"Effectively implemented, the law could significantly reduce greenhouse emissions that result from the clearing of tropical forests for food and other commodities," said Stientje van Veldhoven, the World Resource Institute regional director for Europe. "And it could help protect critical biodiversity and water resources in tropical rainforests."

The law will force companies to show that goods they import comply with rules in the country of origin, including on human rights and the protection of Indigenous people.

Van Veldhoven added that the EU should now cooperate with producing

countries to make sure they can adapt to the new legislation without hurting their economies and people's livelihoods.

"This will require incentives for vulnerable groups like smallholder farmers to shift toward deforestation-free practices, ensuring they do not get left behind in this transition," she said.

Forests around the world are increasingly under threat from clearance for timber and agriculture, including soybean and palm oil. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 420 million hectares (1.6 million square miles) of forest an area larger than the EU were destroyed between 1990 and 2020. □



**Cut down trees lie near the limit of the Cordillera Azul National Park, Peru's Amazon, on Oct. 3, 2022.**

Associated Press



## Crioyo Productions teases new short film “CAMP”

(Oranjestad)—Crioyo Productions is a local production team, consisting of eight talented people with a mission to produce quality film that showcase different local talents within the Aruban community.

Crioyo Productions was established in 2022. In a short time, they have produced two short film, namely “Ruman” and “Nigh Shift,” with both receiving positive reactions from the public. “Ruman” was part of the international Four Points Film Project, and will be presented as a short film this year at the Playa Film Festival. During their participation in the Bonaire’s 48-hour Film Project, their second short film, “Night Shift,” was nominated in different categories, including best

story and best sound. The film ended up snatching the price for best character. Both films were written, filmed and produced in less than 48 hours.

“Our passion of making movies is something that sets us apart,” according to Jason Yarzagaray, co-founder of the production team. “We strive to produce films that provoke emotions while also illustrating different aspects of our island and culture.”

Currently, the team is working on “CAMP,” which promises to be their biggest production yet. The team has especially focused on looking for local actors and artists, so that they could get the chance to show off their talents to the world,

while also maintaining the standard of quality for their film: “We want to create something that can resonate with a global audience,” Frederik “Professor” Bernabela stated. Frederik is a director and co-founder of Crioyo Productions. “Our goal is to not only put Aruba on the map, but also change the way people perceive Caribbean cinema.”

The story behind CAMP is inspired by real events. The story was written by Ephrayim Odor, a talented local writer, who is also known as a member of the comedy sketch team “Djis pa Hari” (Just for Laughs). This movie tells the story of two friends that grew up and live in a neighborhood plagued with gang activity, drugs



and violence.

“We want to tell a story that is sometimes overlooked or underestimated within our community, and create awareness about this existing problem,” Jeanmiree van der Werf have stated, researcher for Crioyo Productions and social worker.

“The goal of this project is to inspire kids to make the right decisions, even though life seems tough

sometimes,” Professor said. “We hope to inspire other people within our community as well.”

Crioyo Productions’ compromise is to produce sublime content, in which their work and quality will shine through. The team think that there are so many stories that have yet to be told and they hope to continue producing and sharing more content with the entire world. □

## New regulation for homeowners of vacation rentals

ORANJESTAD – On May 10, 2023, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber, met with the ATA, AHATA, Tax Department, and the Central Bank to discuss the regulations for the new vacation

rental (other accommodations) permitting process, use Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com, and other sites.

Creating and maintaining a level playing field for all lodging businesses is essen-

tial. This discussion about vacation rental owners’ compliance is going on for many years. The trend among tourists to stay in vacation homes has increased, not only in Aruba but worldwide. In Aruba, 30% of visitors opt for a vacation rental instead of staying in a hotel.

That is why it is so crucial to regulate vacation rental companies. According to the government, a level playing field is essential for all accommodation providers in Aruba. It includes compliance with taxes such as the tourism levy, as the government wants its fair share.

he Department of Health Inspection and Hygiene of the Department of Public Health DVG will transition into a sui generis to make the permit process more efficient for all vacation homeowners. Soon all vacation rental companies will need a government-issued permit to operate as such.

The meeting was very effective. Now everyone knows exactly how many vacation homes are on

offer and what percentage of them meet their obligations. The number of vacation rentals gives the government an idea

of the permits required under the new regulation. The first step is to determine the policy and costs for a permit. □



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Quinta Beach Resort



**The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the recognized Emerald Ambassador of Aruba.**

Presenting the Ambassador with the Emerald certification as a token of appreciation. The honoring

certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year.

The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island.

### **Honoring Levels:**

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years  
Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years  
Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

### **Honorees were:**

Emerald Ambassador 35> years:

Anthony Mingo resident of New Jersey, United States (has been coming to Aruba for 40 years consecutively).

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of La Quinta Beach Resort bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The

honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassador for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassador as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

Top 5 reason for returning to Aruba, provided by the honoree was:

Mr. Anthony Mingo reasons:

The people  
Beautiful beaches  
Wonderful weather  
Excellent restaurants + food  
Casinos ☐

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

**The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Goodwill certificate as a token of appreciation.**

The honoring certification

program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification

program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island of Aruba.

### **Honoring Levels:**

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years  
Goodwill Ambassadors:



20> years  
Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

### **Honoree were:**

Goodwill Ambassadors 20> years:

Harold & Cecilia Stancil residents of New York, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 25 years consecutively).

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

According to Honorees these are the top reasons for returning to Aruba:

Mr. Harold & Mrs. Cecilia Stancil reasons:  
Safe and peaceful  
Restaurants  
Friendly environment  
Easy to get around  
Nice beaches ☐

PAN BATI, SCABECHI, SEAFOOD SALAD, SULZ, SANGER YENA, CONCOMBER OF PAPAYA STOBA, SANCOCHO, AWA DI PLAYA, QUESILLO, PANBOYO, BOLO PRETO AND MUCH MORE!

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## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats.

The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who

would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center - it is free for all! □

beauty  
& THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Chelsea from Michigan**. This is her first time and we caught her on her first day on the beach. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Some tobacco tales

**Island insight, local knowledge, transcendental wisdom regarding native Aruban millenarian heritage, upholding the native cultural identity in each of our weekly episodes, sharing awareness and education, and encouraging each reader to experience a true and authentic island state of mind.**

This episode is about tobacco, a magical plant of the Caribbean that grows fast and enchants many with its scent. Pollen evidence suggests that over 3,000 years ago, it was commonly cultivated and used in religious ceremonies among the indigenous peoples of continental America as well as on the islands of the Caribbean. The use must have been triggered or discovered after a bush fire, we guess. Since its origins, tobacco has been smoked, smelled, prepared in medicines, used in divinatory ceremonies, and placed in front of altars. Tabaco leaves represented the sun, energy, and confidence in the farthest reaches of our continent.

The indigenous people used tobacco to relieve pain, heating its leaves and applying them to the affected parts. They say that they rubbed their teeth with a cloth dipped in macerated tobacco leaves to disinfect the teeth and tighten them; that they boiled the leaves, made syrup, smoked them, ground the green leaves, mixed them with oil or vinegar, smoked through the mouth or nose, or put the juice of the plant on a scar to soften it.

Joe Bear Werleman, a native of Aruba, used to say that if someone got bitten by a rattlesnake, they should eat all the tobacco they carried. This will provoke vomit-



ing, so the victim will vomit all the venom out. We don't know if this is true or if the method works as claimed. We don't wish anyone to eat their tobacco.

When the Spanish arrived in the Caribbean at the end of the 15th century, they observed that the indigenous people of our islands smoked tobacco using a pipe-shaped cane or a ceramic funnel called Tobago, which gave rise to the name of the plant.

The Spanish were unaware of tobacco, which by then had conquered all the farmlands of America and was widely distributed from northern Argentina to southern Canada.

The tobacco plant is fast-growing; in just two months, it will go from being 15 centimeters tall to almost 2 meters tall when it blooms. During this time, care is constant; labor and watering follow one another to accompany the vegetative development.

Because tobacco originates from tropical regions, the plant vegetates better and the harvest is earlier. Tobacco belongs to the genus *Nicotiana tabacum*, but its evolution required thousands of years to produce the plant we know today.

During the 20th century, tobacco consumption habits underwent great changes that laid the foundations for the transformation, composition, and geographical origin of agricultural production.

A practice known here as "huma paden," or "reverse smoking," widely used among women, was customary among our Aruban ancestors. In this practice, the lit end of the cigarette is held by the lips or by the teeth and introduced into the mouth, where combustion occurs. Subsequent studies determined that "reverse smokers" are much more likely to have patches and red areas on the roof of the mouth, as well as leukoplakia and carcinoma. During those years, it was normal to see tobacco plants grow everywhere after the rains, but with the development that Aruba has had and is having; many flora and fauna have disappeared or become extinct.

If you love to explore and know everything about Aruba, we encourage you to do something outside the tourist grid by visiting the exclusive museum called Etnia Nativa, where you will be able to admire native art collections, archaeological artifacts, and historical furniture, while the lecturer will transform your mindset from that of a simple observer into that of a conservator. Since 1994, Etnia Nativa has been the private residence of our columnist, native artist, and island's Piache, Anthony Croes, who enjoys sharing personally with tourism an authentic view of Aruba, guiding each guest step by step during the visit through his unrepeated residence. So take some time away from the beach scene and book your appointment to experience the real native effect!

R.S.V.P. etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp +297 592 2702.

Episode CCVI – 206



# The Chico Harms Foundation prepares for Brazil Neighborhood Day celebrations

(Oranjestad)—On May 14th, the Chico Harms Foundation held a press conference where the new board of directors, Mr. Chico Harms, Mr. Leo Harms and Mr. Tito Tromp, gave an extensive explanation of all the activities taking place ahead of the 11th edition of the Brazil Neighborhood Day celebrations.

Mr. Chico Harms explained that the first official activity to open the celebrations will take place on May 28th and is a musical parade. The parade will start at 4:30pm at the Church of Brazil and finish at the Neighborhood Center Brazil.

As it is already known, June 24th is National San Juan Day, and to keep our culture alive, the foundation often organizes activities in hopes of passing this on to younger generations.

For the celebration of San Juan Day/Dera Gai, there will be activities taking place at the Neighborhood Center in Brazil. On this day, as Mr. Tromp explained, there will be prizes for the participating dancers, both young and old.

He added that they are very happy that they noticed an increase of interest from children: "That's good, because it guarantees that our tradition will continue to live on in the future," he remarked.

On July 29th, the Cantica di Caya (Street Song) event will take place, for which there are already seven groups that are confirmed to participate. Just like in previous years, as Mr. Chico Harms have indicated, there will be three judging categories: kids, teens and adults. He also added that in case the number of participants from the kids and teens categories surpasses expectations, the event will be extended for a second day. The music genres that participants are allowed to



sing include tumba, dansa, calypso crioyo and tambu. On

On August 19th, during the festivities of Batacso Tipico, the finalists of the Cantica di Caya contest will reunite and perform at the Neighborhood Center Brazil. Mr. Leo Harms further elaborated on the coronation night of the folkloric culture queens, which will take place on August 26th. He explained that there are seven categories, starting from the category for babies to adult culture lady. Additionally, they will also coronate the Pillar of Culture. The Pillar of culture is an elderly person who has made significant contribution to the Aruban culture over the years.

The performances for this night will begin at 7:30pm, with artist presenting different forms of cultural manifestation, showcasing what the Aruban culture is all about.

This year, the foundation

indicated that there will be no elections, replacing this with the coronation instead. This they decided after groups participating in the parade have showed their preference for the coronation during their first meeting with the foundation.

Each group must pick one category and appoint a queen who will represent their groups and who will be crowned for the categories they choose.

The Lantern Parade takes place on September 1st. This, as Mr. Tromp explained, gives the groups the opportunity to make full use of their costumes, while also giving the community those who missed out on the day parade to come see the night parade. During the last couple of year, he remarked, the Lantern Parade gained much popularity, especially because this takes place at night, where it's much cooler. For those who are participating in the Lantern Parade,

it is important to state that this will only include lantern and not flashlights or any type of lights.

On September 2nd, there will be another annual tambu showcase, in which there are already five groups that have registered to participate. The Grand Cultural Parade takes place on September 3rd. Mr. Chico Harms explained that both cultural parades has a total of 11 groups that have registered, four DJs and six bands. He also pointed that it seems that this year will see the biggest parade yet, because the school in the Brazil district neighborhood will also be participating: "We have made a request to all school to participate, so that we can encourage the young ones to participate in hopes of passing this tradition on to them," he stated.

Mr. Tromp added that as a foundation, they are seeing an interest coming from schools for the cultural parades, and this is something they applaud.

He explained that during the pandemic, they have lost many participants, because of the risks for older adults participating.

On the other hand, he said, it gives them much satisfaction to see that there are many young people that are participating: "This tells us that our tradition will surely keep thriving."

Brazil Day takes place on October 29th, and will include a multicultural food fair. Tromp indicated that they want to introduce more cultural event on the island, so that the community can learn and appreciate culture from other parts of the world, while also recognizing the diversity that exists within our own culture.

During this event, there will be multicultural showcase with traditional clothing from different countries. There will of course be different cultural foods and snacks sold from those countries. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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liquids 42 Churlish

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33 Paint buy

34 Egg dish

36 Titled

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37 Alarm

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38 "— Rae"

39 Snowy

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Yesterday's answer

11 Travel 28 Massages

need 29 Places

15 Maui last

souvenir 30 Barcelona

17 Vociferous buddy

20 Blue 31 Hall of

21 Model buy Fame

24 Last name catcher

for Lucy 35 Lusty

25 Fraud per- look

petrator 36 Extinct

27 Poker bird

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5-17

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-17 CRYPTOQUOTE

X LRIRO EYGR G XKZF YM FZR

MDIIF FZDF AVGF JRXLK XG

MVL — CDFZDOXLR ZRSJVOL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT A STRANGE THING! TO BE ALIVE BENEATH CHERRY BLOSSOMS. — KOBAYASHI ISSA

## Millennial Money: What's concierge medicine? Is it worth it?

By KATE ASHFORD  
of NerdWallet

My primary care doctor recently left her practice and invited me to join her at her new gig a concierge medicine group. There, for a membership fee, I'd have better and more personal access to her services: same-day appointments and long conversations!

Concierge medicine a model in which patients pay a membership fee for a more direct relationship with a primary care doctor used to feel like a perk for the superwealthy. But as fees have come down and people have gotten more frustrated with the state of traditional primary care, concierge services may not seem like such a pie-in-the-sky option. There's less waiting, more access, longer visits and greater coordination of care. However, the fees can be high, and if you don't have complex medical needs, it may not feel worth the expense.

### WHAT IS CONCIERGE MEDICINE?

Concierge medicine is an arrangement in which a patient pays a membership fee to gain access to a doctor's practice. Your fee may cover a wide range of services, with insurance covering any needs you have outside the practice, or your fee may cover basic preventive care and the practice might accept insurance for the rest.

But your experience, overall, is more personal. Concierge medicine typically offers same-day appointments and 24/7 access to your doctor (who, by the way, isn't rushed during visits). Patients like it because



A stethoscopes and blood pressure monitor on set on a rolling rolling table at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Associated Press

they have more time with their provider, says Terry Bauer, CEO of Special-docs, a company that helps doctors transition to concierge medicine. People with a medical situation after hours can call, text or email. "They have that doctor, in essence, on speed dial," Bauer says. "It makes people a lot more comfortable and a lot less anxious."

### HOW MUCH DOES CONCIERGE MEDICINE COST?

Membership fees for concierge medicine vary widely. For one large concierge network with doctors in 44 states, the fee is typically between \$1,800 and \$2,200 per year (or between \$150 and \$183 per month). Other practices can run much more.

"I know a couple that charge \$4,000 a month," Bauer says. Doctors who charge those prices may be board certified in two specialties cardiology and internal medicine, for instance or they may be in an extremely wealthy area of the country, he says.

The good news is that if you have a flexible spending or

health savings account, you can use those funds to pay your annual membership fees as long as they go toward wellness benefits.

### ADVANTAGES OF CONCIERGE MEDICINE

There's plenty to like about concierge medicine. It's usually possible to get same-day or next-day appointments with your doctor, and wait times are minimal, says Bret Jorgensen, chairman and CEO of MDVIP, a network of concierge medicine physicians. Typically, you have access to your provider at all hours of the day, and because they have fewer patients, your doctor has more time to spend with you. "With a smaller patient roster, your doctor can take the time to know you and your health history intimately, which can lead to more personalized and effective care," says Dr. Shoshana Ungerleider, a practicing internal medicine physician and host of the TED Health podcast. "Concierge doctors can focus more on preventative care, which could potentially catch health issues early and save costs in the long run." □

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## An intoxicating, delicate coming-of-age tale in 'The Starling Girl'

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

Laurel Parmet's directorial debut "The Starling Girl" puts the viewer in the modest shoes of a 17-year-old girl named Jem. She's grown up in a Christian fundamentalist community in Kentucky and has internalized its teachings, feeling deep shame for drawing attention to herself and her body, which as an artistically-inclined member of the dance troupe is especially difficult to avoid.

But her world starts to change when Owen, a handsome 28-year-old youth leader played by Lewis Pullman, returns from a mission in Puerto Rico. Jem, played by Australian actor Eliza Scanlen, develops an intense infatuation with him that soon evolves into something more.

It's a film about many things family, patriarchal societies, toxic relationships, power dynamics, first loves and, ultimately, growing up but it's neither outwardly judgmental nor blunt. "The Starling Girl," currently playing in New York and Los Angeles and expanding to other cities this weekend, is done with a delicate touch.

"(Jem) is a very complex character and I think quite different from other portrayals of young women in communities like this," Scanlen said. "What makes this film stand out is it's not making any kind of defini-



Jimmi Simpson, back row from left, Lewis Pullman, Austin Abrams, foreground from left, director Laurel Parmet, Eliza Scanlen and Wrenn Schmidt pose for a portrait to promote the film "The Starling Girl" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Jan. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

tive statement about the church or fundamentalist communities. It's actually trying to humanize the people who live in them."

The story comes from Parmet, who while in Oklahoma for another project got to know some woman in a patriarchal Christian community.

Though she grew up worlds apart, as a child of parents who work in movies and television (a cinematographer and a costumer), she realized that they had

commonalities too from feelings of sexual shame to the need for validation from men. And, because it's told from Jem's point of view, the journey is a bit of a rollercoaster for the audience who may even find themselves emotionally wrapped up in Jem and Owen's romance, despite knowing that it is fundamentally wrong.

"Something that I was trying to do with this film is have the audience be with the main character moment

to moment," said Parmet. "You are with her every step of the way. You feel her intoxication, you feel this vivid opening up that she's experiencing while at the same time conveying that this relationship is problematic." Parmet drew visual and tonal inspiration from Pawel Pawlikowski's "My Summer of Love," a film that she finds lush, green, immediate, intimate, stimulating and dangerous.

A key part of making that dynamic work was finding

the right Owen someone who you believe Jem would fall for and also someone that the audience falls for too, at least for a time. Pullman, Parmet said, had the gentle charisma to straddle the complex line. Jem can't see that he's a lost soul himself, and he likely doesn't even realize he's a groomer or in the wrong. In rehearsals, Scanlen, Pullman and Parmet would try to determine who has the power in a certain scene.

"Plenty of people walk out hating Owen, which is, you know, valid and makes a lot of sense," Pullman said.

"But I think my weird goal in all this was, if there was anybody who was in a relationship similar to it, I wanted him to be approachable enough that they could see themselves in him, right?"

I didn't want to make him so such a monster that people wouldn't look at themselves in the mirror and question whether their actions at all might parallel his." As Jem, Scanlen found in their dynamic a powerful truth about the possibility of both having agency in a relationship and also being a victim of abuse at the same time. The film also explores how patriarchal systems can be harmful for men too. Like Owen, Jem's father (Jimmi Simpson) is struggling in the community as an addict whose recovery is not being supported in a helpful way. □

## Willie Nelson's 90th birthday concerts getting a theatrical release



Willie Nelson performs at the Producers & Engineers Wing 12th Annual Grammy Week Celebration on Feb. 6, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
AP Entertainment Writer  
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— If you missed out on Willie Nelson's 90th birthday concerts last month in Los Angeles, you can see all the special performances honoring the 12-time Grammy winner in a limited theatrical run.

"Long Story Short: Willie Nelson 90" will be shown in theaters on June 11, with an encore presentation on June 13 and 14. Recorded at the Hollywood Bowl over two nights in April, the

concert film will include performances by Nelson, Keith Richards, Neil Young, George Strait, Miranda Lambert, Snoop Dogg and many more.

Nelson, who was also inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame this year, is having a banner year as a nonagenarian. He was honored with an educational endowment at the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public Affairs and will have a new book about his songwriting called "Energy Follows Thought: The Stories

Behind My Songs," coming out on Oct. 31 through William Morrow.

The Texas actor, activist and songwriter penned hits like "Crazy," "Funny How Times Slips Away" and "On the Road Again" over his seven-decade career, as well as co-founded Farm Aid.

Tickets for the concert film, presented by Blackbird Presents, Joe Hand Promotions and Nelson's manager Mark Rothbaum, go on sale today at [willienelson-90experience.com](http://willienelson-90experience.com). □



# Djokovic takes issue with Norrie's behavior at Italian Open

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

**ROME (AP)** — Novak Djokovic's angry glare made it clear how furious the 22-time Grand Slam champion was with his opponent.

And it wasn't just because Cameron Norrie hit him in the left calf with an overhead smash after Djokovic had already turned his back and conceded a point early in the second set of the Serb's 6-3, 6-4 win on Tuesday.

There were also other instances of bad sportsmanship from Norrie, Djokovic said after reaching the Italian Open quarterfinals for the 17th straight year.

Djokovic also took issue with how his British opponent took a medical time out just before he served out the match. "I did watch the replay when he hit me. Maybe you could say he didn't hit me deliberately," Djokovic said when asked about his angry glare toward Norrie after the incident. "It was not so much maybe about that. ... From the very beginning, he was doing all the things that were allowed. He's allowed to take a medical timeout.



**Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Cameron Norrie of Britain at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Tuesday, May 16, 2023.**

He's allowed to hit a player. He's allowed to say 'Come on' in the face more or less every single point from basically first game.

"Those are the things that we players know in the locker room it's not fair play, it's not how we treat each other," Djokovic said. "He brought the fire, and I responded to that. I'm not going to allow someone behaving like this just bend-

ing my head. I'm going to respond to that."

Also on Campo Centrale, local hope Jannik Sinner was eliminated by Francisco Cerundolo 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-2. Cerundolo will play Casper Ruud, who beat Laslo Djere 6-1, 6-3.

In women's action, two-time defending Rome champion Iga Swiatek beat Donna Vekic 6-3, 6-4 and will next face Wimble-

ton champion Elena Rybakina. Also, Paula Badosa got past Karolina Muchova 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-2 and will play 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko. Aiming for his seventh title at the Foro Italico, Djokovic had his entire game clicking after struggling at times in the previous rounds and in his previous two tournaments on clay. On an overcast day after it had rained

all morning, Djokovic appeared focused from the start. "I actually finished my warmup 10 minutes before I went on the court. So I was rushing a bit with everything but we couldn't (warm up) earlier because of the rain," Djokovic said. "So I'm just glad to overcome today's challenge in straight sets and move on." Djokovic was seen in the trainer's room before the match, having taken three weeks off before this tournament because of a lingering issue with his surgically repaired right elbow. "Every day is something," the 35-year-old Djokovic said, without specifying what was bothering him.

Djokovic committed less than half as many unforced errors as Norrie, 14-29; and had two more winners, 21-19.

Norrie won a title on clay in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, beating Carlos Alcaraz in the final.

Djokovic will lose the No. 1 ranking to Alcaraz after this tournament — even though Alcaraz was beaten by 135th-ranked Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan in the third round on Monday. □

Associated Press

## Cort wins Giro d'Italia stage in miserable conditions, Thomas stays in lead

**VIAREGGIO, Italy (AP)** — Magnus Cort won a wet and cold 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday and Geraint Thomas kept hold of the pink jersey. Thomas, who rides for Ineos Grenadiers, moved into the lead on Sunday after pre-race favorite Remco Evenepoel had to withdraw after testing positive for the coronavirus. Evenepoel had a 45-second advantage over Thomas.

Other riders have also had to abandon after returning positive tests for COVID-19, including Domenico Pozzovivo and Rigoberto Urán. Thomas maintained his two-second lead over Primož

Roglič after they both finished safely in the peloton, in terrible conditions, 51 seconds behind Cort.

Tao Geoghegan Hart was third overall, five seconds behind his teammate Thomas.

Cort edged Derek Gee and Alessandro De Marchi at the end of the rolling 196-kilometer route through the Tuscan Apennines from Scandiano to Viareggio on the Mediterranean coast. All three were part of a breakaway.

The victory completed a Grand Tour set for Cort, who won six stages in the Spanish Vuelta and two in the Tour de France.

The near miss was particularly painful for De Marchi, who is still seeking his first stage victory in his home Grand Tour in his seventh Giro.

There were miserable conditions from the start of the stage, with rain and freezing temperatures.

It was even discussed whether to amend the route over the top of the day's main climb, the second-category Passo delle Radici. Team buses followed the riders for a while in case they were needed to transport them if conditions worsened, before it was eventually decided to race the stage as normal.



**Denmark's Magnus Court Nielsen celebrates winning the 10th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Scandiano to Viareggio, Italy, Tuesday, May 16, 2023.**

Associated Press

However, race organizers announced that Friday's Stage 13 to the summit finish at Crans-Montana would be shortened with the top-category climb of the Passo del Gran San Bernardo cut due to snowfall

and risk of avalanches.

Wednesday's 11th stage is a 219-kilometer (136-mile) route from Camaiore to Tortona, with three lower-classification climbs.

The Giro ends in Rome on May 28. □



## As NBA coaching changes mount, some lament the lack of job security

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Basketball Writer**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Miami's Erik Spoelstra and Denver's Michael Malone are two of the four NBA coaches to have spent at least eight years with their current team.

They know how rare that is especially as the league's coaching changes mount. Championship-winning or title-contending coaches aren't safe in the NBA these days. In recent days, 2019 NBA champion Nick Nurse, 2021 champion Mike Budenholzer, 2021 Western Conference champion and 2022 coach of the year Monty Williams and most recently 2008 NBA champion Doc Rivers were all fired.

Nurse was fired by Toronto, Budenholzer by Milwaukee, Williams by Phoenix and Rivers by Philadelphia.

"It's disturbing," Spoelstra said. "Doc's a Hall of Famer. ... There's only so many teams that can advance. It's just a really hard thing to do. Yeah, it's been a tough couple weeks, hearing the news of just some really surprising firings."

It doesn't make sense to Spoelstra, or likely to many other coaches. Spoelstra has the NBA's second-longest



**Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams argues for a call during the second half of Game 5 of the team's NBA Western Conference basketball semifinal playoff series against the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Denver.**

gest current tenure with one team. San Antonio's Gregg Popovich has coached the Spurs since 1996, Spoelstra took over the Heat in 2008, Steve Kerr became coach in Golden State in 2014 and Malone became coach in Denver in 2015.

"I understand this business," said Malone, who'll lead Denver into the Western Conference finals starting Tuesday against the Los Angeles Lakers. "You look around the coaching landscape, if you want a secure

profession, coaching is not the one to get into. I should have been a TV reporter." Of the last nine coaches to take a team to the NBA Finals, only two Kerr and Spoelstra are still with the franchise that they went to the title round with.

Three of the last four championship-winning coaches Budenholzer in 2021, the Los Angeles Lakers' Frank Vogel in 2020 and Nurse in 2019 have since been fired by those clubs. Also no longer with their teams for

various reasons after recent runs to the finals: Ime Udoka in Boston, Cleveland's David Blatt and then Tyrone Lue as well, and now Williams by the Suns.

Budenholzer's dismissal left Kerr upset, as he revealed earlier this month but noted that all coaches understand how vulnerable they are. "My first response is not necessarily shock, it's more disappointment because Bud is a fantastic coach," Kerr said. "He just won a championship and

**Associated Press**

has been wildly successful in his coaching career. But this is the business we're in. ... Expectations every year for every team are so high, and only one team can win. It's sad news for the coaching profession."

At least six teams will have new coaches next season Phoenix, Milwaukee, Toronto, Detroit and now Philadelphia are looking, and Houston has hired Udoka as the replacement for Stephen Silas. Mazzulla will meet Spoelstra and Miami in the Eastern Conference finals starting Wednesday. Spoelstra has faced Boston three times for the East title in four years, going up against three different coaches — Brad Stevens in the NBA bubble restart in 2020, Udoka last year and now Mazzulla — and says while the coaches change, organizational stability exists and is crucial.

"Joe was in the bubble. ... He's been part of some really good teams," Spoelstra said. "That does have an impact. Probably more than anything in this league right now, you're looking for some kind of organizational stability between the front office and coaching staff." □

## Olympic gold-medal figure skater Sarah Hughes running for NY congressional seat

By **KAREN MATTHEWS**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sarah Hughes, who won a gold

medal in figure skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics, has filed to run for Congress in New York, joining several

other Democrats seeking to unseat Long Island Republican Anthony D'Esposito.

Hughes, 38, will make a formal campaign announcement of her campaign for New York's 4th Congressional District "in the next few weeks," spokesperson Max Kramer said Tuesday.

Hughes was just 16 when she scored her upset win over teammate Michelle Kwan at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

She later earned an undergraduate degree from Yale and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Hughes spent three years as an associate at Manhattan-based corporate law firm Proskauer Rose and is

currently studying toward an MBA from Stanford.

She made headlines in 2011 when she dated Andrew Giuliani, the son of former New York City Mayor and Donald Trump adviser Rudy Giuliani.

Hughes lives in Manhattan and is looking for a home within the 4th Congressional District in southern and central Nassau County, Kramer said.

Hughes grew up in Great Neck, which is in the adjoining district now represented by Republican George Santos, who pleaded not guilty last week to a 13-count federal indictment that accused him of duping donors, stealing

from his campaign and lying to Congress about his finances.

D'Esposito and Santos both flipped seats previously held by Democrats, part of a strong 2022 showing by New York Republicans in the suburbs surrounding New York City.

Other candidates who have filed for the Democratic nomination for the 4th Congressional District include Laura Gillen, a former Hempstead town supervisor who lost narrowly to D'Esposito in 2022; Patricia Maher, who ran unsuccessfully against Rep. Peter King in the 2nd Congressional District in 2014; and Lawrence Patrick Henry. □



**Olympic figure skater Sarah Hughes attends the world premiere of "The Other Guys" at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Monday, Aug. 2, 2010 in New York.**

**Associated Press**